



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release – September 9, 2003

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release: GAS LINE BREAK CAUSES NEIGHBORHOOD EVACUATIONS

Type of Emergency: Gas Leak **Date/Time of Incident:** September 9, 2003/10:38 hrs.

Location: Liberty Center Construction Site -- East Stockton Boulevard, South of Bond Road

Incident Number: 098960 **# of Alarms & Times:** 1

Summary of Dispatch Report and Incident Size Up Upon Arrival:

Construction staff at the Liberty Center construction site alerted the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center to a gas line break at 10:38 hrs. Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department units arrived on scene at 10:44 hrs. and reported a broken 2.5 inch natural gas line.

Summary of Incident Operations:

Gas emitting from the pipe wafted to an adjoining neighborhood and prompted Fire Department officials to evacuate 14 homes along Crown Pointe Court and Hospenthal Way as a safety precaution. Working with the Fire Department, school officials at Ellen Feickert Elementary School cut their recess period short and brought students inside to "shelter in place." A residential care home in the neighborhood was also advised to "shelter in place" by closing its windows and keeping employees and patients inside for the duration of the incident.

Firefighters were assigned to fire suppression standby until the leak could be secured. Pacific Gas & Electric crews arrived on scene at 11:49 hrs. and secured the leak at 12:17 hrs. Homeowners who had been evacuated during the incident were advised that it was safe to return to their homes shortly thereafter. The incident was shutoff around 12:20 hrs. without any reported injuries.

Cause & Damage Information:

Construction crew members trenching around the line "nicked" the pipe with a bobcat. Damage was limited to the gas pipe.

Fire Prevention/Life Safety Message:

Natural gas is extremely flammable and in large concentrations, can cause people to experience symptoms like headaches and nausea. Exposure to high concentrations of gas for long periods of time can even result in death. Fire officials encourage the public to contact emergency responders through the 9-1-1 system if they suspect a gas leak in their home or in their neighborhood. If the odor is coming from outside, close all windows and doors and await additional instruction from emergency personnel.

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Incident Resources:

Number of Fire Engines: 2 Trucks: 0
Medic Units: 0 Water Tenders: 0
Specialized Equipment (if any): 0
Number of Firefighters: 7
Number of Chief Officers & Support Personnel: 3
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Richard Holmes
Mutual Aid Assisting Agencies: None
Investigating Agency (if not Elk Grove CSD) and Contact: N/A

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Contact:

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